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THE GIRL I LEFT BEHIND ME

It happens every day. A young man goes off to college, leaving his home town sweetheart with vows of eternal love, and then he finds that he has outgrown her. What, in such cases, is the honorable thing to do?

Well sir, you can do what Rock Sigafoos did.

When Rock left Cut and Shoot, Pa., he said to his sweetheart, a simple country lass named Tess d' Urbevilles, "My dear, though I am far away in college, I will love you always. I will never look at another girl. If I do, may my eyeballs parch and wither, may my viscera writhe like adders, may the moths get my new tweed jacket!"

Then he clutched Tess to his bosom and planted a final kiss upon her fragrant young skull and went away, meaning with all his heart to be faithful.

But on the very first day of college he met a coed named Fata Morgana, a girl of such sophistication, such poise, such *savoir faire* as Rock has never beheld. She spoke knowingly of Franz Kafka, she hummed Mozart, she smoked Marlboros. Now, Rock didn't know Franz Kafka from Pancho Villa, or Mozart from James K. Polk, but Marlboros he knew full well. He knew that anyone who smoked Marlboros was modern and advanced and as studded with brains as a ham with cloves. Good sense tells you that you can't beat Marlboro's exclusive selectrate filter, and you never could beat Marlboro's fine flavor. This Rock knew.

So all day he followed Fata around campus and listened to her talk about Franz Kafka, and then in the evening he went back to the dormitory and found this letter from his home town sweetheart Tess:

Dear Rock,

Us kids had a keen time yesterday. We went down to the pond and caught some frogs. I caught the most of anybody. Then we hitched rides on trucks and did lots of nutsy stuff like that. Well, I must close now because I got to whitewash the fence.

Your friend,
Tess

P.S. . . . I can do my Hula Hoop 8,000 times.

Well sir, Rock thought about Tess and then he thought about Fata and then a great sadness fell upon him. Suddenly he knew he had outgrown young, innocent Tess; his heart now belonged to smart, sophisticated Fata.

Rock, being above all things honorable, returned forthwith to his home town and walked up to Tess and looked her

"You can hit me in the stomach if you like."

in the eye and said manlily, "I do not love you any more. I love a girl named Fata Morgana. You can hit me in the stomach all your might if you like."

"That's okay, hey," said Tess amiably. "I don't love you neither. I found a new boy."

"What is his name?" asked Rock.

"Franz Kafka," said Tess.

"A splendid fellow," said Rock and shook Tess's hand and they have remained good friends to this day. In fact, Rock and Fata often double-date with Franz and Tess and have heaps of fun. Franz can do the Hula Hoop 6,000 times.

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